

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1133
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: N US, SP

SUBJ: CIA AND SPANISH PRESS ROUNDUP

REF: MADRID 244

SUMMARY: SPANISH PRESS PROVIDING PROMINENT COVERAGE TO
ALLEGED ACTIVITIES OF CIA IN SPAIN AND ELSEWHERE, ENGENDERED
BY (A) RECENT PRESS REPORTS THAT CIA HAD PLACED OBSERVERS IN

STRATEGIC POINTS IN BASQUE AREA, PRINCIPALLY AMONG
AMERICAN STUDENTS AT UNIVERSITY OF ONATE, AND (B) BY ARRIVAL
IN SPAIN OF VICTOR MARCHETTI WHO IS PROMOTING SALES OF BOOK
"CIA AND CULT OF INTELLIGENCE". WHILE PRESS REPORTS
CONCERNING CIA ACTIVITIES AT UNIVERSITY OF ONATE
CAUSED SOME DISCOMFORT, SUBSEQUENT TREATMENT HAS BALANCED
ORIGINAL COVERAGE WITH REPORTS THAT AMERICAN STUDENTS IN
ONATE WELL RECEIVED AS WELL AS COMMENTS THAT SOURCE OF
REPORTS APPEARED SOMEWHAT DUBIOUS. IN MEANTIME, HOWEVER,
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ARRIVAL OF MARCHETTI HAS GIVEN NEW IMPETUS TO PRESS INTEREST,

WITH HIS PRONOUNCEMENTS INTER ALIA THAT HE WOULD NOT DISCOUNT FUTURE CIA INVOLVEMENT IN SPAIN, GIVEN INEVITABLE CHANGES THAT MUST TAKE PLACE AND OBJECTIVE OF EXERTING SOME INFLUENCE ON SPAIN'S FUTURE. END SUMMARY.

1. MADRID PRESS HAS GIVEN PROMINENT COVERATE TO RECENT

STORY APPEARING IN FRENCH NEWSPAPER FRANCE-SOIR ALLEGING THAT CIA HAD PLACED OBSERVERS IN STRATEGIC POINTS IN BASQUE AREA BECAUSE OF INCREASE IN ARMS TRAFFIC THERE. PRESS CITED FRANCE-SOIR AS STATING "POSSIBILITY

CANNOT BE DISMISSED THAT NORTH AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE CIA HAS PLACED OBSERVERS IN BASQUE COUNTRY, PRINCIPALLY ON FRENCH SIDE, IN ORDER TO STUDY RECENT AND FUTURE MOVMENTS OF ETA TERRORIST ORGANIZATION AND ITS ARMS TRAFFIC..."

2. FRANCE SOIR FURTHER ALLEGED THAT UNIVERSITY OF ONATE IN SPAIN, WHICH PABVIDES SPECIAL COURSE FOR U.S. STUDENTS OF BASQUE ORIGIN, WAS ONE OF LOCATIONS WHERE SUCH OBSERVERS MIGHT BE PLACED. SPANISH AUTHORITIES PURPORTEDLY CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION OF MATTER.

3. CONCURRENTLY , SAN SEBASTIAN NEWSPAPER DIARIO VASCO WAS QUOTED IN MADRID PAPERS AS STATING FRANCE-SOIR ALLEGATION HAS CAUSED "PROFOUND UNEASINESS" IN ONATE, AND THAT AUTHOR OR ORIGINAL REPORT, ROGER COLOMBANI, HAS NOT EVEN BEEN IN ONATE. DIARIO VASCO CONTINUED THAT THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR COURSES HAVE WITHHELD COMMENT OR ACTION AND THAT IN ONATE "WHERE PRESENCE OF YOUNG AMERICANS, MANY DESCENDENTS OF BASQUE SHEPHERDS, IS VIEWED SYMPATHETICALLY, ALLEGATIONS

ARE BELIEVED TO BE PURE FANTANSY."

4. FEB 3 EDITION MADRID EVENING DAILY "INFORMACIONES" CARRIED FOREGOING AS WELL AS ADDITIONAL COMMENT, SUMMATION AS FOLLOWS:

A. FOR PAST SEVERAL MONTHS, U.S. NEWS MEDIA OCCUPIED WITH "NEW MEDITERRANEAN STRATEGY" OF CIA BASED ON DEPT OF STATE PREOCCUPATION WITH MEDITERRANEAN DOMING THEORY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INVOLVING FALL OF PORTUGAL, SPAIN, ITALY, AND GREECE TO ANTI-AMERICAN LEFTIST REGIMES.

B. FOREGOING THEME ELABORATED IN CBS TV PROGRAMS PRESENTED BY CORRESPONDENT DANIEL SCHORR.

C. WASHINGTON POST AND NEW YORK TIMES ALSO PREOCCUPIED WITH SAME THEME, PARTICULARLY WITH REFERENCE TO EVOLUTION OF PORTUGUESE SITUATION AND ITS EFFECT ON SPAIN. HIGH OFFICIALS OF CIA, INCLUDING GENERAL WALTERS HAVE RECENTLY

BEEN IN SPAIN.

D. CIA OPERATIONS IN SPAIN NOT NEW. ACCORDING TO "RECENT REPORT" 45 SUPPOSED AGENTS WORKED HERE UNTIL 1968. ALSO, NUMBER OF JOURNALISTS--ACCORDING TO UNIVERSITY OF OHIO JOURNALISM PROFESSOR STUART LORY--HAVE PASSED INFO

TO CIA ON THEIR VISITS TO SPAIN, ESPECIALLY REGARDING SPANISH MILITARY INSTALLATIONS AND OTHER ZONES OF INTEREST.

5. WEEKLY MAGAZINE "CAMBIO 16" REPEATED SOME OF FOREGOING, POINTED OUT IN CONCLUSION THAT ALLEGED SOURCE OF REPORT, ROGER COLOMBANI, APPARENTLY WAS UNKNOWN TO ANYONE IN ONATE AND HAD NEVER EVEN BEEN THERE. "IF COLOMBANI HAD NEVER BEEN IN ONATE, WHERE DID THIS SENSATIONAL REVELATION COME FROM. POSSIBLY FROM SOME GROUP OF EXILES IN FRENCH BASQUE AREA".

6. ARRIVAL AND AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE IN BARCELONA OF VICTOR MARCHETTI FEB 17 HAS REINVIGORATED PRESS INTEREST AFTER ONATE INCIDENT SOMEWHAT SUBSIDED. ARTICLE IN FEB 18 EDITION OF BARCELONA DAILY VANGUARDIA HEADLINED "MARCHETTI: ROCKEFELLER COMMISSION HAS NO INTENTION OF INVESTIGATING

ANYTHING REGARDING CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY," ASSERTED INTER ALIA:

A. "IN CASE OF CHILE, OFFICIAL OPEN POLICY OF WASHINGTON IS TO RECOGNIZE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION. LATER THE REAL POLICY WAS THE ONE THAT UNDOID ALLENDE. MY ONLY PERSONAL EFFORT IS IN PURSUIT OF THERAPEUTIC OBJECTIVE, THAT IS THAT MY GOVT BEHAVE IN REAL AND OPEN MANNER IN CONSONANCE WITH OUR DEMOCRATIC IDEALS."

B. " I DO NOT BELIEVE KGB IS SO ACTIVE IN PORTUGAL AS IS CIA. ONLY CIA HAS REAL EXPERTS IN INFILTRATION AND MANIPULATION OF MEN AND (POLITICAL) PARTIES".
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C. " I BELIEVE THAT IN PORTUGAL COVERT ACTS ARE BEING CARRIED OUT TO INFILTRATE ALL CIRCLES WHICH POSSESS REAL POWER TO INFLUENCE POLITICAL EVENTS OF THAT COUNTRY; POLITICAL, MILITARY, AND LABOR, ETC."

D. IN REPLY TO QUESTION REGARDING CIA COLLABORATION WITH OTHER NATO ALLIES IN ESPIONAGE ACTIVITY, MARCHETTI STATED "YES, IN THIS SENSE VERY CLOSE RELATIONS EXIST WITH ALL COUNTRIES OF NATO".

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7. ACCORDING TO MADRID EVENING DAILY "INFORMACIONES", MARCHETTI IN ALLUSION TO SPAIN STATED THAT GIVEN INEVITABLE CHANGES WHICH WILL OCCUR, POSSIBILITY CANNOT BE REJECTED THAT THERE EXISTS INTENTIONS TO EXERCISE IN SOME MANNER CERTAIN INFLUENCES OVER DESTINY OF NATION.

8. REPLYING TO QUESTIONS IN MADRID PRESS CONFERENCE FEB 20, MARCHETTI MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. REGARDING SPAIN, CIA INTERESTED AS INSTITUTION OF USG IN STABILITY IN SPAIN BECAUSE OF U.S. BASES AND STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF COUNTRY.

B. REGARDING SPANISH AGENCIES THAT COOPERATE WITH CIA, MARCHETTI SAID CLANDESTINE SECTION MADE CONTACT WITH POLICE AND INTELLIGENCE SERVICES OF CONNEIES IT PROVIDED ASSISTANCE TO.

C. QUESTIONED ABOUT YACHT "APOLLO" MARCHETTI SAID SHIPS EXISTED SUCH AS "PUEBLO" AND "LIBERTY" USED RESPECTIVELY OFF KOREA AND IN ARAB/ISRAELI WAR, AND EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT "APOLLO" WAS SIMILAR IN NATURE. ALSO SAID CIA REPRESENTED ONLY 15 OR 20 PERCENT OF CLANDESTINE EFFORTS AND THAT IT WORKED ALONG SIDE OTHER U.S. AGENCIES.

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D. REGARDING WHETHER CIA "PREPARING SOMETHING" IN

PORTUGAL, MARCHETTI SAID: "I WOULD SAY YES. I BELIEVE
USG WANTS TO DO SOMETHING IN PORTUGAL AND IS ALREADY
WORKING ON PUBLIC OPINION THROUGH ARTICLES WHICH ARE
APPEARING NOW IN PJG THERE."

9. MARCHETTI/MARKS BOOK WAS FORMALLY PRESENTED TO MADRID
PUBLIC IN RECEPTION OFFERED BY PUBLISHER AT EXCLUSIVE
PALACE HOTEL FEB 20. EDITOR OF WELL-KNOWN OPPOSITION
(CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT) PUBLICATION "CUADERNOS PARA EL
DIALOGO", PEDRO ALTARES, INTRODUCED MARCHETTI WHO IN TURN
MADE STATEMENT. ALTARES NOTED THAT BOOK SAID NOTHING ABOUT
SPAIN WHICH DID NOT MEAN THAT SPAIN WAS NOT TARGET FOR
CLANDESTINE CIA ACTIVITIES, ESPECIALLY SINCE INTERNAL
CONDITIONS WERE COMPARABLE TO THOSE IN OTHER COUNTRIES
WHERE CIA HAS BEEN MOST ACTIVE. REFERRING TO SEVERAL
CENSORED PAGES IN BOOK, ALTARES SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT DISCUSS
ISSUE OF CENSORSHIP IN SPAIN, SIC, BUT ONE HAD TO RECOGNIZE
FACT THAT U.S. HAD OPEN SOCIETY WHERE MARCHETTI/MARKS BOOK
COULD BE PUBLISHED. MARCHETTI'S COMMENTS, WHILE CRITICAL
OF ALLEGED ALL-PERVASIVE ASPECTS OF CIA ACTIVITIES,
INCLUDING AGAINST AMERICANS IN U.S., ON BALANCE WERE
IMPLICITLY VERY POSITIVE WITH RESPECT TO U.S. POLITICAL
SYSTEM'S ABILITY TO CORRECT INJUSTICES AND IMPROPER INTER-
VENTION OF OFFICIALDOM. IMPRESSION LEFT WITH SPANIARDS
WAS THAT U.S. HAD VIABLE POLITICAL SYSTEM WHICH, WHILE
SUBJECT TO STRAINS AND EVEN FITS OF UNDEMOCRATIC PRACTICES,
HAD GREAT VIRTUE OF OPENNESS AS GUARANTEE THAT DEVIATIONS
COULD BE REDRESSED. GUESTS AT RECEPTION INCLUDED MANY
JOURNALISTS, OPPOSITION LEADERS, AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM
EACH OF THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES (CHINESE EXCEPTED).

10. COMMENT: US CONSUL IN BILBAO REPORTS HE IS UNABLE
TO LOCATE ANYONE IN LOCAL PRESS OR OTHERWISE WHO
KNOWS AUTHOR OF FRANCE SOIR STORY. LOCAL AUTHORITIES
APPEAR CONVINCED THERE IS NOTHING TO STORY AND MAJOR
PAPERS IN BILBAO GAVE IT MINIMAL COVERAGE. ACCORDING TO
MAYOR OF ONATE, STORY WAS PLANTED BY JAVIER ZUMALDE ROMERO
(EL CABRA); ONE OF ORIGINAL ETA FOUNDERS WHO ESTABLISHED
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HEADQUARTERS IN ONATE AFTER HE SPLIT OFF FROM MAIN ETA
GROUP IN DEC 1966. HE AND SIX OF HIS FOLLOWERS
ESCAPED TO FRANCE IN DEC 1968 WHERE THEY HAVE REMAINED.
OLD ANTAGONISMS MAINTAINED SINCE HIS SPLIT WITH ETA
AND DEPARTURE FROM ONATE PROMPTED HIM TO DROP STORY WITH
FRANCE SOIR. ALLEGEDLY, ZUMALDE ROMERO WAS ALSO
RESPONSIBLE FOR BOMBINGS IN ONATE JUST PRIOR TO ARRIVAL OF
BOISE STATE STUDENTS LAST SUMMER (BILBAO'S 074 OF AUG 30,

1974).
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